

PLACER TIMES AND TRANSCRIPT.

BY G. K. FITCH & CO.

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California as seen from the Atlantic States.

One would suppose, at the present time, that information could be obtained in every portion of the Union, which would give a tolerably correct view of California affairs. With the thousands of returned miners, who are scattered through every neighborhood from Maine to Texas, it would seem an easy matter to gain such information respecting us, as would be reliable. Yet we see statements almost daily, which are wholly at variance with truth, in prominent journals published in the Atlantic States. As a sample, we give the following, from the *Clipper Nonpareil*:

"Without considering the elements of profit, many persons conceive large ideas of wealth, while it does not actually exist. The products of the California miners estimate at for this year, at \$55,000,000. How much would this give to the 200,000 persons engaged in that State? Divide \$55,000,000 by 200,000, and we have \$275 for each person! ^{so} also their barrel of gold at the sites where living costs have been paid to a hired laborer on an Ohio farm! But because \$55,000,000 of clear gold are exported in one year, we at once exclude—prudigious wealth! a great State, &c. &c. Money in California is not half as valuable as in the old States, because the miners consume much of the necessities of life. Few individuals have got rich in California, but the great body of the people, under present circumstances, are poorer than they would be had they remained at home. Large amounts have been taken thither, and many are now living on what they earned in the old States."

Taking the chances into account, there is not so much encouragement to go to California as to remain at home. Society is in perfect confusion there—life, liberty, nor property are safe. Why? Because the chances of making an honest living are so small that many are driven into crime for a living. Some become desperate in the struggle for life, and rush into every species of iniquity."

The lesson we learn from this is, that men must be comfortably situated, and be able to get a living by industry that is not too severe, in order to insure virtue and order."

This quotation, although in one respect it has the appearance of fairness, is most deceptive. It gives the reader to understand that California is the poorest place in the world to make a fortune. "There is not so much encouragement to go to California as to remain at home," and this conclusion is arrived at by making an estimate of the value of gold taken from the mines in one year, and dividing it by the number of persons in the State. After deducting the expense of living, it is urged "that we have not a cent over \$100, or less than is paid to a hired laborer on an Ohio farm."

Such an estimate as this must appear somewhat forced to the thinking man, whether in California or elsewhere. The question will naturally arise—to whom belong the cities, towns, canals, and other improvements which are found upon every hand? Are not these to be considered as wealth? If one half of our population should be engaged in erecting dwellings, fencing land, constructing canals, or in various other occupations, would they not add to the permanent improvements to be as much considered in the estimate of what we have made, as the gold which we obtain by mining? Yet the Nonpareil in its estimate, has overlooked more than one half of the acquisitions by the two hundred thousand persons in California. It has set down nothing but for the gold obtained, and even this estimate is much below the amount actually produced!

World our friends in Ohio, in estimating the wealth obtained by the first settlers in that State, judge of it alone by the expatriations which were made? If so, we imagine it would compare poorly with California. The first ten or twenty years after a State is settled, its wealth or labor is used principally in improvements. Its citizens have quite as much as they can do for the time being, without sending foreign exports.

A man comfortably seated in an arm chair in Cincinnati, writing editorials, may forget that our citizens found most of California literally a wilderness, and that where cities and towns are now seen containing their thousands of inhabitants, scarce three years since their sites were unknown, a white man never having visited many of them.

If all the improvements which have been made in this State in a little over two years, were fairly valued, and the amount added to the gold which has been taken from the mountains, it would show an aggregate which would surprise the writers of such articles as we have quoted. It would show a state of things unparalleled in the history of the world.

In order to show the fallacy of the estimate of the Nonpareil, we will make one. It is very generally conceded that the amount of gold produced in California during the current year, will not fall below \$70,000,000. Take 100,000 as the number of persons employed in mining, and divide the amount of gold obtained; it will give \$700 to each person.

This estimate, we imagine, is substantially correct. The gold produced can hardly fail short of the amount specified, while the number of persons actually employed in mining, cannot exceed what we have stated.

We should like to know in what other portion of the world one hundred thousand persons can earn in one year, seven hundred dollars each? Has ever such an instance occurred except in California? Would not the one fourth of such an estimate be large for any State bordering the Atlantic coast?

The error has been with our friends, in making their estimates for California, to set down every species of property as long as the moment it touches our shores—labor, merchandise—yes, even clothing is gone. It is never presumed that any of it remains. Whereas, we have nearly all but the food and clothing which have been consumed, and the tools which have slightly deteriorated in value from use. The lumber, brick, lime, nails and glass which came from every quarter of the globe, have been put into elegant buildings. The labor which has been devoted to other than mining pursuits, is in canals, quartz machinery, furniture, houses, farms—nay, a thousand things which we have no time to enumerate in a newspaper article. Hardly a miner, who is generally sensible enough not to buy anything that cannot be disposed of again in a very few weeks at most. Thus, there is everything to indicate that trade in this country will be very nearly alike in all seasons.

We see it stated that Edwin Forrest, the actor has sued Thurlow Weed, editor of the Albany Evening Journal, for \$10,000 damages, on account of some publication in that paper in reference to him.

The body of a man supposed to have been murdered, was found about ten miles from Auburn on Sunday last.



VIEW OF DOWNEYVILLE, FORKS OF THE NORTH YUBA RIVER.

Here old earth heaved once with mighty quakings shaken, And fierce volcanoes belched forth fire and flame?

Such are the articles which sober men in the old world put forth to deter persons from coming to California. A country of all others in the world where the honest laborer can soonest make himself rich—where five, six and seven dollars per day are paid to ordinary laborers, where, as we have shown, the average yield of gold to each miner employed is \$700 a year—

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